

on “Do Not Flush” labeling, and to require the Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, to issue regulations requiring certain products to have “Do Not Flush” labeling, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. CON. RES. 10

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 10, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. RES. 568

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 568, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of “Countering International Parental Child Abduction Month” and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KING, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 3979. A bill to amend the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to extend child nutrition waiver authority; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, as the pandemic began, Congress, on a bi-

partisan basis, made sure our schools and our summer meal programs had easy-to-use flexibilities so they could continue to feed hungry children who were no longer physically in school or no longer able to go to a meal site in the summer because of COVID.

All across America now, because of a lot of hard work on a lot of people's part, our kids are now back in school, which is great. But 90 percent of our schools are still struggling to provide children healthy food as a result of higher food prices, less available staff, and more supply chain delays and shortages that we know about all the time. In fact, part of that relates to this bill which was just passed on shipping. This is part of the supply chain breakdown that has affected the ability for our schools to be able to get what they need for our children.

We have 90 percent—all this in red, across the country—of the States saying: We need these flexibilities that have been in place from the very beginning of COVID. We extended the flexibilities before, and they need them to continue to be able to feed children in our country. School cafeterias, summer meal providers—everybody is working as hard as they can to get back to normal, but they need time to transition so our children aren't hurt in the process. The USDA, school administrators, local mayors, even school food suppliers themselves have said they need these flexibilities to continue for another year.

Back in January, the Agricultural Secretary, Secretary Vilsack, called on Congress to once again extend what we call the nutrition waivers so that schools and meal providers had the flexibility they need to feed hungry children who may have their only meal at school or their only breakfast or their only lunch at school or, in the summer, through the feeding programs.

We have been working in good faith, as we always do, across the aisle to make this extension happens. We were working on having that happen as part of the omnibus. It was a real shock to me and to many of the Senators who care deeply about our children when Republican Leader McCONNELL refused to agree to extending the school nutrition flexibilities as part of the omnibus bill that we just passed, that we know was critically important to pass. We don't want the government to shut down. We had essential, critical resources for Ukraine and so many other issues. But our kids were left behind in this one, and it is not right. We need to fix it.

We are in a critical transition period right now, but we are not out of the pandemic yet. Without having these flexibilities extended, without this support, up to 30 million children who get their food, their only healthy meals at school will see their breakfast and lunch disrupted, and that makes absolutely no sense. Millions of kids will show up at their summer meal program this July and could very well see a “closed” sign.

That is why, today, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI and I are introducing the Support Kids Not Red Tape Act, along with Senator COLLINS and all 50 Members of our Democratic caucus.

Let me stress that this is a temporary extension with a clear end date and a lot of procedures put in place to safely get schools and summer meal programs back to normal operations. We want to give them time to transition.

I am so grateful for our colleagues' support—52 colleagues. We only need eight more. We only need eight more Republicans to join us to get this done right away, just like we did the shipping bill.

Our schools need time. Our kids need time right now rather than having this abruptly end June 30, which is not very far away. So let's be clear. To abruptly pull the lunch tray away from hungry kids at the end of June is just plain wrong.

Since the pandemic started in March 2020, food insecurity for families and their children has jumped by nearly two-thirds. We all know the stories. We have all seen the lines. People across the country are engaging to support each other. One in five kids comes to school hungry, and school and summer programs may be the only meal that they get. During the pandemic, it was even worse. Now, because of all the challenges continuing, we are not out of the woods on this yet in terms of feeding our children.

How have these flexibilities helped our children be able to get healthy meals? One example is in Rapid City, SD, where the local school district has partnered with Meals on Wheels in the summer to deliver meals to where the kids are. It makes sense. This has been a lifesaver for hungry children in their rural communities who had no way to get to the one school meal site that was miles and miles away.

In Arkansas, the food insecurity rate among children skyrocketed to over 32 percent during the pandemic, 32 percent of the children being food insecure, not being able to have a healthy meal.

Fayetteville and Bentonville schools' summer meals programs have provided weekly meal pack pickups with a week's worth of breakfast and lunch. So rather than a parent who is working trying to figure out, how do I get my child to a place to get a healthy breakfast, and by the way, I may have to take them back again for a healthy lunch—by the way, in the rural community, there is not a lot of public transportation. It certainly affects everyone in urban areas, suburban areas, and rural areas, but the distances in rural communities are an extra burden oftentimes. So they put together the capacity to do a week's worth. Those were the flexibilities we gave them that we want to continue.

In Edgecombe County, NC, resourceful schools found a way to get meals to 100 kids during the summer by using

the schoolbus. The schoolbus wasn't being used, so they put the food on a schoolbus and went out to the neighborhoods, out to the kids.

As a result of these flexibilities, twice as many kids got summer meals during the pandemic, which is something we also need to learn from. Just as we have learned the importance of high-speed internet after the pandemic, and we have addressed that, which is great, we have now learned that we need to rethink some of these things here, in terms of the flexibilities for our schools and how we deliver summer meals, how we address schools during the school year.

So it goes to show you what a big difference it makes for hungry kids when we don't make them or their families or their meal providers jump through all kinds of hoops to get something as basic as a healthy meal.

In schools across Kentucky, from smalltown Madison County to metropolitan Jefferson County, these flexibilities have kept kids from getting caught in the redtape and going hungry if their struggling parent just missed one piece of paper on a form.

It has been a relief to school food service directors in small towns who are already working with half the staff, twice the stress of putting together healthy meals with all the food and supply chain shortages we have talked about.

Right now, school food service directors in Utah are placing orders for next year, knowing that many of the items they need are currently not available and the ones they can find have doubled in price.

The flexibilities and increased funding to deal with these costs—the things we have given them to deal with this—have made it possible to make substitutions when basic items like ground beef are not available or fruit is not available, to be able to put together something healthy in a different way.

Losing these flexibilities will cut their budgets by 40 percent and force meal providers to make pretty dire choices on which children to feed and how schools are going to pay for it.

Without our bill to support kids and cut redtape, all of these desperately needed flexibilities are going to go away at the end of June. They are just going to go away—all the support for schools, all the support for children, all the new creative things that have been able to be done to help children get healthy meals, done.

School meals, summer programs will have to scale back. Some will have to stop feeding kids altogether. Children will once again go hungry because of paperwork and bureaucracy outside of their control. I mean, you think about this: Are we on the side of bureaucracy or are we on the side of kids?

This legislation is on the side of kids. My colleagues supporting this bill and sponsoring this are on the side of kids, not redtape.

The unnecessary stress is going to be felt by families in every part of our

country, from small towns to big cities, to suburban areas. So our bill gives us a clear, easy path forward to make sure children and to make sure schools have the time and the support they need to get back on their feet as we recover from the pandemic and to be able to plan for how this phases out. Schools across the country are telling us that these flexibilities are critical to continuing—absolutely critical.

So it is time for us to listen to them and to do the right thing for our children. I urge my colleagues to pass the Support Kids Not Red Tape Act as soon as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 572—HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LEGACY OF CÉSAR ESTRADA CHÁVEZ

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 572

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez spent his early years on a family farm;

Whereas, at the age of 10, César Estrada Chávez joined the thousands of migrant farm workers laboring in fields and vineyards throughout the Southwest after a bank foreclosure resulted in the loss of the family farm;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez, after attending more than 30 elementary and middle schools and achieving an eighth grade education, left school to work full time as a farm worker to help support his family;

Whereas, at the age of 17, César Estrada Chávez entered the United States Navy and served the United States with distinction for 2 years;

Whereas, in 1948, César Estrada Chávez returned from military service to marry Helen Fabela, whom he had met while working in the vineyards of central California;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez and Helen Fabela had 8 children;

Whereas, as early as 1949, César Estrada Chávez was committed to organizing farm workers to campaign for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, livable housing, and outlawing child labor;

Whereas, in 1952, César Estrada Chávez joined the Community Service Organization, a prominent Latino civil rights group, and worked with the organization to coordinate voter registration drives and conduct campaigns against discrimination in East Los Angeles;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez served as the national director of the Community Service Organization;

Whereas, in 1962, César Estrada Chávez left the Community Service Organization to es-

tablish the National Farm Workers Association, which eventually became the United Farm Workers of America;

Whereas, under the leadership of César Estrada Chávez, the United Farm Workers of America organized thousands of migrant farm workers to fight for fair wages, health care coverage, pension benefits, livable housing, and respect;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was a strong believer in the principles of non-violence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez effectively used peaceful tactics that included fasting for 25 days in 1968, 25 days in 1972, and 38 days in 1988 to call attention to the terrible working and living conditions of farm workers in the United States;

Whereas, through his commitment to non-violence, César Estrada Chávez brought dignity and respect to organized farm workers and became an inspiration to, and a resource for, individuals engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world;

Whereas the influence of César Estrada Chávez extends far beyond agriculture and provides inspiration for individuals working to better human rights, empower workers, and advance the American Dream, which includes all individuals of the United States;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez died on April 23, 1993, at the age of 66 in San Luis, Arizona, only miles from his birthplace;

Whereas more than 50,000 individuals attended the funeral services of César Estrada Chávez in Delano, California;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was laid to rest at the headquarters of the United Farm Workers of America, known as Nuestra Señora de La Paz, located in the Tehachapi Mountains in Keene, California;

Whereas, since the death of César Estrada Chávez, schools, parks, streets, libraries, and other public facilities, as well as awards and scholarships, have been named in his honor;

Whereas more than 10 States and dozens of communities across the United States honor the life and legacy of César Estrada Chávez each year on March 31;

Whereas March 31 is recognized as an official State holiday in California, Colorado, and Texas, and there is growing support to designate the birthday of César Estrada Chávez as a national day of service to memorialize his heroism;

Whereas, during his lifetime, César Estrada Chávez was a recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize;

Whereas, on August 8, 1994, César Estrada Chávez was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas, on October 8, 2012, President Barack Obama authorized the Secretary of the Interior to establish a César Estrada Chávez National Monument in Keene, California;

Whereas President Barack Obama first proclaimed March 31, 2010, to be “César Chávez Day” and asked all people of the United States to observe March 31 with service, community, and education programs to honor the enduring legacy of César Estrada Chávez;

Whereas President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. most recently honored the life and service of César Estrada Chávez by proclaiming March 31, 2021, to be “César Chávez Day” and by asking all people of the United States to observe March 31 with service, community, and education programs to honor the enduring legacy of César Estrada Chávez; and

Whereas the United States should continue the efforts of César Estrada Chávez to ensure equality, justice, and dignity for all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—